

Members

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Sen. Brandt Hershman
Sen. Ron Alting
Sen. Timothy Lanane
Sen. Sam Smith
Sen. Timothy Skinner
Rep. William Ruppel, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Cindy Noe
Rep. Jackie Walorski
Rep. John Aguilera
Rep. Scott Reske
Rep. Vern Tinchner



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SECURITY AND REGULATORY MATTERS

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 6, 2005
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Senate Chambers
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Ron Alting; Sen. Timothy Lanane; Rep. William Ruppel, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Cindy Noe; Rep. Jackie Walorski; Rep. John Aguilera; Rep. Vern Tinchner.

Members Absent: Sen. Thomas Wyss, Chairperson; Sen. Brandt Hershman; Sen. Sam Smith; Sen. Timothy Skinner; Rep. Scott Reske.

I. Call to Order.

Representative William Ruppel, Vice Chairman, explained that Senator Thomas Wyss, Chair, would be absent from today's meeting. Representative Ruppel, acting Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M.

II. Presentation by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

Eric Dietz, Executive Director of IDHS, gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the structure of IDHS, the progress toward a Fire Training Institute, and the IDHS's assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina (Exhibit 1).

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

The Committee discussed the following topics with Director Dietz:

- IDHS's plan of response for the possibility of a pandemic disease
- the definition of pandemic versus epidemic
- possibility of using the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center as a quarantine area
- IDHS's relations with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Government in general
- the Department's plan of response for a major catastrophe
- how IDHS works with local emergency management entities to distribute funds
- the need for public training and awareness through public service announcements
- the organization and work of the Counterterrorism and Security Council
- the need for IDHS to consider personal rights in its public safety decision-making
- Capitol security
- the plans for the IDHS to reconvene the committee on the Hoosier Safety license plate funds distribution

Senator Ron Altig wished to emphasize that he was pleased that Director Dietz was aware of the importance of immediate local response to a catastrophe versus looking first toward the federal government for help.

In response to a question from Representative Vern Tincher, Director Dietz explained that the method of distribution of funds to locals was changed to include input from a newly created district representative position and also included the new practice of requiring all interested parties to participate in a conference call directly with IDHS.

Dennis Fleming, firefighter and concerned citizen, testified about his concerns regarding Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 56-2005 and the current certification requirements for firefighters. Mr. Fleming submitted his testimony in writing (Exhibit 2).

Joel Thacker, Chief of Training and Safety with the White River Township Fire Department, testified in opposition to SEA 56-2005, and submitted his testimony in writing (Exhibit 3).

Maynard Masters, representing a coalition of firefighters, testified in opposition to SEA 56-2005 and submitted his testimony in writing (Exhibit 4).

Paul Covington, firefighter from Switzerland County, testified that if rule changes aren't made in conjunctions with the changes in SEA 56-2005, then federal funding could be lost as a result.

Thomas Hanify, representing professional firefighters, testified that fire and police personnel should be better represented on the Counterterrorism and Security Council. Mr. Hanify also requested that the role of the State Fire Marshal be reviewed.

The Chairman recognized Cheree Calabro and Greg Serbon, representing the Indiana Federation for Immigration Reform and Enforcement (IFIRE), to testify. Ms. Calabro testified on various immigration issues (Exhibit 5). Mr. Serbon submitted his testimony regarding the Matricula Consular ID card in writing (Exhibits 6 and 7).

Representative John Aguilera objected to the IFIRE representatives' testimony as unrelated to this meeting's agenda.

The Chairman recognized Diane Osborn, concerned citizen, to testify. Ms. Osborn also testified about various immigration issues (Exhibit 8).

III. Adjournment.

The Chairman reminded members of the Committee's final meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2005, at 10:00 A.M. in Room 431 of the State House. He also explained that the Committee would be adopting their final report at this meeting and that affirmative votes from a majority of the Committee members is needed for adoption.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:40 P.M.